

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 14, 2008

SENATE BILL

No. 1508

Introduced by Senator Corbett

February 21, 2008

An act to add Section 7065.07 to the Business and Professions Code, and to add Section 8898 to the Government Code, relating to seismic safety standards, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1508, as amended, Corbett. Seismic safety standards: cripple walls.

Existing law requires the State Architect, in consultation with designated entities, to develop seismic retrofit guidelines and standards for buildings, as specified, with concrete or reinforced masonry column or wall construction. Under existing law, the California Earthquake Authority is required to establish an Earthquake Loss Mitigation Fund to provide funding for homeowners to retrofit their residences to protect against earthquake damage.

This bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development, in consultation with designated entities, to develop guidelines and standards prior to January 1, 2010, *the* for seismic ~~repairs~~ retrofit of cripple walls of residential buildings, as defined, and ~~to publish a commentary explaining the guidelines and standards by that date submit the standards to the California Building Standards Commission.~~ The bill would require the ~~California Building Standards Commission~~ *commission* to adopt, approve, codify, and publish the guidelines and standards in the California Building Standards Code prior to July 1, 2011, and to submit them to the International Code Council on or prior to August 1, 2011. *The bill would require the*

department to publish a commentary explaining the seismic retrofit guidelines and standards and their use prior to their effective date. The bill would also require the Contractors' State License Board to adopt a training and testing program prior to August 1, 2011, for a specialty license classification for the that the license examinations for a general contractor's license and a carpentry and framing license ensure that a licensee applicant has sufficient knowledge to perform the seismic retrofit of cripple walls. The bill would appropriate an unspecified amount from the Earthquake Loss Mitigation Fund to the department for the purposes of developing the seismic retrofit guidelines and standards.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 7065.07 is added to the Business and
2 Professions Code, to read:
3 7065.07. The qualifying examinations for both a general
4 contractor's license and a carpentry and framing license shall
5 ensure that an applicant has sufficient knowledge, including
6 knowledge of the guidelines and standards adopted pursuant to
7 Section 8898 of the Government Code, to perform the seismic
8 retrofit of cripple walls.
9 SECTION 1.
10 SEC. 2. Section 8898 is added to the Government Code, to
11 read:
12 8898. (a) The Department of Housing and Community
13 Development shall develop guidelines and standards, prior to
14 January 1, 2010, for the seismic retrofit of cripple walls of
15 residential buildings of wood frame construction. The department
16 shall develop these guidelines and standards in consultation with
17 the Division of the State Architect, the California Building
18 Standards Commission, the Contractors' State License Board, the
19 California Council of the American Institute of Architects, the
20 California Building Officials, the International Code Council, the
21 Structural Engineers Association of California, the Seismic Safety
22 Commission, the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, the
23 League of California Cities, the Association of Bay Area

Governments, and other organizations that have previously worked on committees to develop similar retrofit provisions.

(b) The sum of ____ dollars (\$____) is hereby appropriated from the Earthquake Loss Mitigation Fund to the Department of Housing and Community Development to complete the duties described in this section. The department may expend the money appropriated to it for the costs of retaining professionals in the engineering field to develop the guidelines and standards, as well as for travel and other necessary expenses for committee members developing and reviewing those guidelines and standards, and may retain 10 percent of the funds appropriated to it for administrative expenses relating to its duties under this section.

(c) Prior to January 1, 2010, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall publish a commentary explaining the seismic retrofit guidelines and standards and their use, and Community Development shall submit the seismic retrofit standards to the California Building Standards Commission. The department shall also make the standards available to other interested parties upon their request.

(d) Prior to July 1, 2011, the California Building Standards Commission shall adopt, approve, codify, and publish by reference in the California Building Standards Code the seismic retrofit guidelines and standards developed pursuant to this section for the seismic retrofit for cripple walls of residential buildings of wood frame construction.

(e) Prior to August 1, 2011, the California Building Standards Commission shall submit the seismic retrofit guidelines and standards to the International Code Council for consideration and adoption into model codes, as defined in Section 18916 of the Health and Safety Code.

~~(f) Prior to August 1, 2011, the Contractors' State License Board shall adopt by regulation a training and testing program for a specialty license classification for performing the seismic retrofit of cripple walls.~~

(f) Prior to the effective date of the seismic retrofit guidelines and standards adopted pursuant to this section, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall publish a commentary explaining the seismic retrofit guidelines and standards and their use.

(g) The following definitions apply for purposes of this section:

1 (1) “In consultation with” means the meaningful and open
2 solicitation of suggestions, ideas, and comments, and the response
3 to these suggestions, ideas, and comments, and the opportunity to
4 participate in meetings by the organizations named in this section.
5 Consultation shall include consideration of what constitutes seismic
6 deficiencies and the appropriate measures to correct the
7 deficiencies.

8 (2) “Seismic retrofit for cripple walls of residential buildings
9 of wood frame construction” means retrofitting or reconstruction
10 of an existing building or structure to significantly reduce structural
11 collapse due to inadequate connections between the wood frame
12 building or structure and the foundation, inadequately braced
13 cripple walls, and lack of connections between these cripple walls
14 and the first floor of the building or structure.